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"OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN."
AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1896.

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No. 9.

Maine Farmer.

Feeding is the main factor in rearing choice animals.

The potato bug is not known in Bermuda. No wonder that is a happy land for growing potatoes!

Even cold storage of the choice autumn fruits has failed to net any money to the operator this year. Too much fruit is a worse calamity to the producer than a crop failure.

The Massachusetts milk makers are in trouble. There is too much milk sent to Boston market. The solution of the problem is simple enough. If the Boston milk trade is not satisfactory to farmers, they have only to make some other disposition of the product.

The food value of silage, like all other fodder materials, depends upon the amount and relative proportion of digestible food constituents found in it, claimed Prof. Phelps before the Connecticut Board of Agriculture. This is precisely what Prof. Jordan's experiments led to. Yet there are still farmers who claim some magical effect from the use of silage.

In this day of progress, knowledge is power and ignorance is failure; and in no avocation does this apply with greater force than in farming. No greater injustice can be done by a farmer to his son than to set him to farming with no scientific preparation for that vocation. By all means, give your boy the best scientific farm education possible, if you intend he shall follow that vocation, and expect him to make a success of it.

For a butter dealer, acting as a judge at our butter exhibition, to go into another State and publicly make damaging allusions to, and comparative illustrations of the quality of our product, may be fun for the other locality, but can hardly be set down as an act of courtesy to us. Maine butter is not so good, we all know, as we purpose to have it in the near future, and a means more effective to that end, it seems to us, would be to call the attention of our own dairymen to it.

EXPERT JUDGES AT FAIRS.

That the method now adopted at all of the important State fairs of a one-man judge, and the scale of points as a basis of his work, is a step far in advance of the old committee method no one to-day questions. Yet in the application of the system there is a call for the exercise of discretion and judgment as in all other business connected with this work. The first thing of course is to select men for the work who are competent judges. No one ever takes exception to this being placed first in importance. Closely related to this is a matter of policy. This is that the judges should be men acquainted by exhibitors as competent for the positions in which they are placed. They should also be acceptable exhibitors. This in no sense need conflict with good judging. With the competent judging done by men acceptable to exhibitors there is no room for dissatisfaction, and in such cases it is seldom heard. That inward dissatisfaction and smothered complaint that otherwise might be felt is defeated before it arises, and all is left pleasant.

In order to meet the satisfaction of exhibitors we are emphatic in the opinion that it is best for the officers of societies having these matters in charge not to continue the same judges, however competent, through a succession of years. Exhibitors prefer a change. In many cases the same families of blood and the same individual animals are pitted in the show ring against each other, and possibly their relative positions in the prize list is continued for a succession of years. The personal favor of the judge for a particular line of breeding or for a "family" of stock, if such exists, is learned by exhibitors. Distrusts arise, complaints are heard, dissatisfaction exists. Exhibitors "do wish they could have another man judge this stock once."

We have been among the showmen after the ribbons were hung for many years at our own State fair, and in claiming that exhibitors demand a change in the judges are voicing only that which we have heard among them. Most of the judges in the live stock classes have been the same men year after year for a long time. We do not question the competency of these men—no one does that—but we believe a change would better serve the interests of all concerned, and in behalf of those who make up the show and for the continued success of the fair, we call the attention of the officers to the matter. From observation in the matter we believe the same judges should in no case be continued more than two years in succession, and that it would be better still that they be changed every year. This is a matter that officials should not lightly by. It bears with especial weight on the officers of our State Society, where the interests at stake are of the greatest importance.

In the opinions expressed on the matter under consideration we are by no means alone. Those concerned with the

most successful fairs in other localities and in other States hold the same views, and most of them change their judges each year. In this course they find equally good judging, and better satisfaction existing all around.

In this connection, and still further bearing on this important matter, we wish to urge as we have done many times before the selection of men for this work, who are not only competent but are identified with the interest on which they are called upon to act. In this as in the other matter under consideration some exhibitors at our State fair feel they have cause for grievance. In the dairy section, two years ago, in the face of all these criticisms and objections the same man was called to the same service again last fall. Here was the triple error of a man not identified with the interest, incompetent, and his succession to the work a second year. Of course this did not fail of intensifying the feeling raised the year before. Such things work against the success of the department in which they occur. So long as there are competent men to do the work it is better that such cases do not occur.

Again, the exhibitors of Jersey stock at the last fair felt that they had a grievance in this line against the management. This found expression at the annual meeting of the Jersey Breeders' Association held on the ground at the fair. The Jersey stock on exhibition at the fair numbered, it was stated, more animals than all the other breeds counted together. Yet the judge furnished to lay the awards was not a breeder, handler or advocate of Jersey stock and never was in any sense identified with Jersey interests. They had no criticisms on the ability of the man—no one could have—but, it was claimed, he was an expert out of place, and placing him there was an injustice to Jersey breeders. As a result the members of the association chose a committee to confer with the officers of the State Fair and ask that another year the Jerseys be accorded their rightful attention, and that a judge acceptable to breeders of this stock be called to make the awards.

We refer to these matters not at all in a spirit of criticism on the management of the affairs of the State Fair, but rather to call the attention of the officers in charge, and others concerned, to what is believed by us and others to be of importance. In doing this we are voicing the wishes of exhibitors, and fully believe that having those wishes made known the officers of the society will be pleased to give them respectful attention, and will grant them every right and privilege they due.

DAIRY TYPE.

Under the heading of "How much for good looks," we called attention some weeks ago to the importance laid on mere points of symmetry in the scale of perfection as made up for the Jersey cow. In the same connection we also alluded to the "Jersey type" adhered to by some of the most noted experts employed in awarding prizes at the leading exhibitions. The subject we feel is an important one, as related to the show ring alone. It also takes on additional importance in its connection with the domestic animal studies now carried on at the agricultural colleges. Considered from an economic base, what is a typical dairy cow? And from the basis of breed, what is the Jersey type? Until these are clearly defined, no one can intelligently compare the living animal with the ideal. What is to be the standard of instruction at the short course in animal industry to open at Orono next week? General knowledge is indefinite on these matters.

We find in the Jersey Bulletin a communication from the Pennsylvania dairy school, discussing these matters which, although no positive conclusions are drawn, we transfer to our columns in this connection:

Editor Jersey Bulletin: Other duties have prevented me from replying to your editorial inquiry in regard to the "typical dairy type" until now. While I recognize the importance of having an ideal type as a standard which we should always try to reach, I may perhaps be considered a little skeptical as to what type should be considered ideal, and the quickest way to reach it.

On looking over the various butter records, I find that they were made by cows of many very different types. With this fact in mind, I am at a loss to know which of the types represented by these great performers is the typical type. I firmly believe that the time will come with the development of the dairy cow, as it has already come with the development of the "thoroughbred" in the horse, when all of the best butter producers will be of the same general type; but I do not believe that investigation has gone far enough along this line for any one to conclusively state which is the most economic and useful type of the dairy cow, any more than it is possible to determine with the present knowledge which is the best type of the American trotting horse.

Professor Hocker has begun a very interesting line of study in this direction which will be watched by all interested in the development of dairy cattle, but the results obtained are extremely interesting, there is not sufficient data accumulated at present to warrant any definite conclusion being drawn. It is to be hoped that this line of work will be continued for a long time to come, as

there is no doubt it will bring us nearer the truth than we are now.

It is generally recognized that cows with bodies deep through the abdomen, and with correspondingly wide hips, as Jersey Belle, Scituate and Eurotas, are the best and most economical butter producers, and yet a great many cows that have distinguished themselves as butter producers differ in many respects from the type of these noted animals. For example, Oxford Kate and Mary Anne of St. Lambert are both slimmer in the body and show a greater tendency toward bonyness than either Jersey Belle or Eurotas, and both these cows excel, as well as many others of similar type, in butter production.

In our experiment station herd of thirty milking cows, I have found it impossible to tell by the conformation of the animal what will be her comparative production of milk and butter, and I have frequently been surprised to find those cows that differed very widely from the so-called typical dairy type, among our best. So far as type is concerned, I think it makes but little difference whether the cow be deep or wide or narrow, within reasonable limits, so long as there is a good udder development of the right kind. Of years may be expected in nearly every cow's work, but as a rule a cow with a large, square udder will use it for the right purposes, and it is my belief that the sooner we begin to carefully test our herds and keep them replenished from the best producers, other things being equal, the sooner we will reach the ideal dairy type. The law of heredity works just as actively now as it did in days of Jacob, and that like will produce like, under like conditions, is just as true of producers of milk and butter now, as it was of producers of ring streaked and speckled color in the time of the patriarchs.

EARLY LAMBS.

By early lambs in this connection we mean those that are dropped in December and January, and early enough to be ready to capture the cream of the prices in March and April. In conversation on this particular matter a few days since with a party having a fine flock of Shropshires, it was stated that difficulty had been met in getting the ewes to breed early enough in the season to get the lambs in the months named.

We know of no promoter to this end other than taking the lambs off early and following with the generous feeding and diligent care of the ewes, by which a vigorous and thriving condition is built up and maintained throughout the season. Nature's way with domestic animals is for them to bring forth their offspring in the spring months. The dairy cow by liberal feeding and favorable surroundings has overcome the influence of winter, and under present conditions she breeds regardless of the season. The hen has proved a little more obstinate but even with her winter has been overcome in a large measure and spring chickens are made to peep long before their natural season arrives. Feed and care has done it. The same course is reaching a measure of similar results with the sheep. With some subjects it may be necessary to skip a year's breeding to bring them around to the desired time. Taking the lambs away in May and June is not early enough to insure lambs so early as December and January under any condition of good treatment. Early breeding once started and the liberal treatment continued, there will be little trouble but the lambs can be secured at any desired season of the year.

KEEPING WINTER APPLES.

S. D. Willard, a prominent New York pomologist, gives the following as his plan for keeping winter apples in the best condition:

"My practice in keeping apples in a cellar is to leave the barrels without heading, for the pressure necessary to fit them to send to market will bruise some of the apples. The fruit will also shrink so that they will need filling up a little, even though they are not quite so rotten. So I set the lower tier without heading, and the second tier on top in place of a head, with loose heads laid on the upper tier. Second, it makes no difference, when headed, whether the barrels are laid down or stand on end, in regard to keeping. The apples should be covered in some way to secure an even temperature and to prevent shriveling."

MAINE AGRICULTURAL NEWS.

Annual meeting. The members of the West Penobscot Agricultural Society are hereby notified to meet in Walker Hall, in the town of Exeter, Saturday, the second day of January next, at ten o'clock A. M., to elect officers for the ensuing year, and to transact any other business that may properly come before said meeting.

T. P. BATCHELDER, Secretary.
Kenduskeag, Dec. 24, 1896.

H. M. Fellows will make 400,000 cans this winter at Burnham & Morrill's corn canning factory in Farmington. This is about 100,000 more than last year. This will please the corn planters.

Seventy-five thousand bushels of corn have been cribbed at Syracuse, Nebraska, during the past six weeks. Fifty thousand bushels of corn have been shipped out by the elevators during the past two weeks. An extra freight train for corn from that point is required every day. What is true of that city is true of every section of Nebraska. About all the corn has been husked in Western Nebraska. The great problem is the manner in which it can be handled.

Communications.

Reported for the Maine Farmer.
SOME PROBLEMS IN EXPERIMENTAL HORTICULTURE.

BY PROF. W. M. MUNSON, MAINE STATE COLLEGE.

[A paper read before the Vermont State Horticultural Society at Burlington, Dec. 4th, 1896.]

The type of work in the various experiment stations will naturally vary, and rightly so, since the stations are founded for the express purpose of aiding the people of widely different regions. It is not to be supposed, however, that each station will limit its sphere of usefulness to the particular State in which it is located, nor is it desirable that it should do so. According to this view of the case, one of the first questions which a station worker must meet, is the extent to which he shall accede to the popular demand as opposed to his own ideas of legitimate experimental work.

Grant, as we must, that the first duty of experiment station officers is to inquire into the specific needs of the region supposed to be most benefited by the station, and to adopt a policy in accordance with those needs, we must still remember that the "popular demand" is too often a demand for immediate "practical" results inconsistent with careful work, and with the production of data which shall be of permanent value.

Agriculture is based upon certain fundamental principles, and we must all recognize the fact that the highest type of experimentation consists in enunciating these principles, rather than in conducting commercial operations which may be copied—with or without success. A principle is of value whether worked out in New England or in Texas; its adaptation is of course a personal matter, which must be settled by individual farmers.

In general, purely scientific work does not give immediate cash results, and farmers cannot afford to conduct work of this sort. It is the special business of the experiment station to conduct certain lines of investigation until some definite statements can be made. Here are gathered together men whose lives are devoted to solving the mysteries of nature, and to applying natural laws to the practical affairs of life. Here, also, are the necessary apparatus for carrying on the work; and the books and periodicals, which enable the workers to take advantage of the results obtained by hundreds of others who are likewise engaged.

The world is full of experiments, yet comparatively few of them result in the demonstration of valuable principles. Original or scientific work cannot proceed in the manner of a well established business; methods must be worked out by experience, and many a faithful worker has wasted his life in attempting to accomplish certain ends without a knowledge of what has already been done along the same lines.

The mere cultivation of a certain number of varieties of fruits, while of value in familiarizing the grower with these varieties, is not, properly speaking, experimentation. Not that I would condemn a certain amount of variety testing, for this is to a certain extent valuable; but it is not the chief work which should occupy the attention of an experiment station.

What, then, are some of the horticultural problems which present themselves for solution? First of all we may speak of

Plant Breeding.

One of the most important lines of work which can be taken up is the amelioration of our native fruits and the production of types valuable in special localities. This work to be of the widest application must be based on general laws, and it is within the province of the experiment station to determine what those laws may be. Through all the ages nature has been producing plants of the strongest constitutions and with organs best fitted for self perpetuation, regardless of other features. It remained for man to develop those organs best suited to his needs; and this he has done, regardless of the natural requirements of the species, to such an extent that some species would be utterly incapable of existence if dropped from cultivation.

The development of the great number of varieties and forms under cultivation has been the gradual outgrowth, in many cases, of centuries of care and selection on the part of man. The apple, the pear, the bean, the cabbage, wheat and some others have been under cultivation for more than 4000 years; while most of our cultivated fruits and vegetables have been grown for from 500 to 2000 years. Until a comparatively recent date, however, no systematic attempts at improvement have been made.

In order that improvement may be made there must first be variation in character of a given type. So one of the first subjects for investigation in the systematic study of plant breeding is that of the causes of variation. We know that plants vary as a result of difference

in climate, in soil, and in culture; as a result of crossing, of grafting, and of various other conditions and operations, but in very few instances can we generalize as to probable results from any course of treatment. In general, we know that plants are dwarfed and the relative productiveness is increased as we go northward. We know that there is a certain place where the relation between size and productiveness is most profitable, but with none of our most common fruits do we know where that point is. We know that differences in soil may cause such a change in a given variety that its identity is lost, but we do not know the probabilities with reference to the transmission to offspring of such changed characters. We know that in some cases we may get immediate and marked effects from the crossing of two species or varieties, but we do not know how generally such results may be expected or how important they may be. We know that in some cases the amount and the character of pollen supplied may exercise an important influence on the amount and character of the fruit, but we cannot generalize on the subject at present, and the number of species studied is very limited. We know that in some cases there seems to be an undoubted mutual influence of season and stock; but the subject has received little careful study.

Crossing and hybridizing form important features in the improvement of plants; but the production of hybrids and the study of the laws by which they are regulated is quite a different matter from raising plants for general utility. The latter is comparatively easier of manipulation and more encouraging, because of the magnificent results often obtained and the profits attendant on it. But in the investigation of true hybrids, manipulation is often difficult and failures are numerous; and the labor is incessant and unless conducted with order, watchfulness, and in a spirit of fairness and freedom from prejudice, with accurate judgment, is entirely useless—or worse than useless, as wrong conclusions will be drawn. The great variety of objects demanding attention, the length of time required for even the simplest results, the careful labeling of every plant, and registering the phenomena as they appear, the difficulty of preventing confusion among hundreds or thousands of seedlings—all of those conditions enter into the study of plant breeding and must precede the most important part of the work, that of generalizing upon the observations made and formulating laws which shall be of real value in practical work and in future study.

Perhaps no part of the work of a horticulturist is the subject of greater misapprehension in the minds of people generally than that of plant breeding, or the improvement of cultivated plants. By the breeder of fine stock, the importance of pedigree and of careful selection of individual parents, has long since ceased to be questioned; but by the average fruit grower or nurseryman, little attention is paid to the development and the inherited tendencies of the plants he is growing or propagating.

Plant breeding bears the same relation to horticulture that the improvement of live stock does to animal industry. Pedigree is as valuable in the one as in the other. Care in the parentage of each successive generation is essential to the future value of the race. Pedigree is valuable only as historical evidence of such care.

Right here I wish to digress for a moment and refer to the importance of pedigree in plants. At horticultural exhibitions the inherent value of a given variety should receive quite as much consideration as is given to individual excellence. At present, exhibitors go through the orchard picking a fruit here and there wherever specially fine individuals may be found without reference to the general habit of the tree, its usual productiveness or hardiness; and awards are too often made on the general appearance of collections without reference to the quality or adaptability of given varieties to the locality where grown. Again, we know that there is marked individuality among trees as among animals, yet I venture to say not one nurseryman in one hundred pays the slightest attention to this fact in propagating a given variety. As a rule, scions are taken from the most available source, either from nursery rows, or from any convenient tree of the variety in hand, without reference to individual characteristics. There is little doubt that this fact has more to do with the failure of orchards than any other one condition. This is one very potent factor in the "running down" of varieties. Breeds of horses, cattle or swine treated in a similar way would very soon "run out."

As a corollary to the subject of plant breeding, we may consider for a moment

Acclimatization.

Acclimatization may be briefly defined as the inuring of a plant to a climate at first injurious.

From the time of Lindley (1790-1865), many of the best horticulturists have contended that acclimatization does not occur; that plants cannot be modified so as to prefer conditions other than the natural ones. "All plants," says Lindley, demand a "particular climate"—we

have to accept these conditions as absolute and ultimate truths without explanation and without remedy. We have no power over the conditions of the plant itself." Is this true? Is it impossible that an individual plant may become modified in constitution or in habit and thus adapted to different climates? Most records on this point are negative, and the general opinion is that a change in the individual plant is impossible. The truth can only be determined by growing the same plant in different climates. This may be done, has been done, by taking cuttings from the same plant and growing them in different regions. It is said that grape vines taken from France to the West Indies rarely succeed, while those imported from Madeira or the Canary Islands thrive well. Now, since the vines in Madeira came originally from France, there must have been a modification of the original plant to bring about this condition. To make the statement of general application we may say: If a plant be propagated by cuttings, and these cuttings be taken from the original home to two other countries, and thence, after a period of years to a fourth locality, if marked variations are found to have arisen we must conclude that there has been a modification of the original plant. Acclimatization not infrequently occurs by variation in the offspring of cultivated plants, and it is in this direction, chiefly, that we must work in adapting plants to new conditions. By observing a plantation of beans or corn or tomatoes after a frost, a marked difference in the hardness of individuals will be noticed. Now by selection from these plants as a basis, harder strains may be produced. The Russian fruits are very good illustrations of this point. They have been bred in a cold climate so long that they are much harder than other individuals of the same species grown elsewhere. The Russian apricot is simply a hardy race of the common apricot—*Prunus Armeniaca*—yet it will often stand a temperature of 30 degrees below zero.

Without further illustration, we may conclude that acclimatization does occur. In other words, that plants may be so changed under the hand of man as to become adapted to widely different conditions; and further that by applying the principles of selection, hardy or otherwise valuable races may be produced in trying climates. The field is a specially important one for northern New England and for the Northwestern States.

Domestication.

Domestication or the inuring of plants to cultivation, offers a field much wider than is commonly supposed. In fact there is little doubt that there are more edible fruits and vegetables still in a wild state but susceptible of improvement, than are now grown by man.

It is but few years since DeCandolle wrote: "A noteworthy fact is the absence in some countries of indigenous cultivated plants.—The United States, in spite of their vast territory, which will support hundreds of millions of inhabitants, only yields as nutritious plants cultivating the Jerusalem artichoke and the gourd." This statement is far from correct since our woods and fields have already yielded us all of our outdoor grapes, our blackberries, raspberries and cranberries, our best gooseberries, our hardiest plums, some of which are very good, and many other fruits and vegetables; while there are probably 50 to 75 wild species which are worthy of cultivation. The difficulty, as stated by Dr. Masters, "is rather in overcoming the prejudices against new edible, and in getting them cultivated, than in discovering them."

If the production of valuable types is important, care in rearing is not less so, and many of the questions concerning the treatment of fruits and vegetables are legitimate subjects for the most careful study at our experiment stations. But I would not include in this category such questions as, "How shall we cut potatoes?" "Will plants grow if set up side down?" etc. Such questions may best be answered by a single sentence: Use common sense.

Among the questions which may very properly receive attention, however, we may suggest first of all: The treatment of orchards, with reference to feeding, culture and pruning. Little careful and accurate work has been done along any of these lines. True, in most of our manuals of pomology we have the accumulated traditions of years; but many of the statements made are based upon personal opinion rather than upon accurate data. One man is positive that the only proper treatment for an orchard is to practice clean culture—a position which is entirely untenable in many of the best orchard sections of New England; another is sure that the best treatment is to turn in the sheep; while his neighbor is quite as positive that hogs will do better service. One man would never use stable manure; another would never use "chemicals." One man would prune severely; another regards pruning

as unnatural and would never use a knife, and so the problems multiply. Small fruits offer problems of like importance. We know—or think that we know—that the character of the soil and the nature of the food have a marked influence on the quality and physical character of fruit, but little careful work has been done. About the only reliable data that we possess are the reports of Stone of Indiana and Coe of Massachusetts. The most widely different views are held as to time and methods of pruning; and the importance and the best methods of winter protection. The origin, development and classification of varieties is also an important study,—the problems concerned with which, can only be made at an experiment station. The problems attending the forcing of fruits and vegetables under glass are by no means solved, and this is one of the important industries in many sections of New England. Studies of methods of construction; of methods of heating and ventilating; of the practice of sub-irrigation; of the influence of electric light; and various other questions have already received attention. Some of them at least, have been considered with the double purpose of ascertaining facts which should be of immediate value and of studying the physiological effect on the plants, and thus deducing general principles. But there is still opportunity for valuable work in this line.

Propagation affords many lines of investigation that are of vital importance. For example, the mutual influence of stock and season; the relative value of seedling stocks from different sources, the importance of top-working certain varieties; and many others. Vegetable and ornamental gardening also offer numerous important lines of investigation, which, however, need not be considered at this time.

We have glanced but hastily at a very few of the problems which confront a station horticulturist. The field, however, is limitless. The work at the experiment stations is each year becoming more practical—not necessarily less scientific, for to be of value work must be conducted on a scientific basis. But the knowledge gained concerning the habits and capacities of plants, their laws of growth and their enemies and diseases, is made to serve a practical purpose in aiding the farmer and fruit grower in making intelligent decisions which arise in his daily work, and in order that the work of the experiment station shall be of the greatest value there must be the fullest sympathy between its officers and the people whose interests it serves.

THE FUTURE OF ORCHARDING.

BY E. C. DOW.

All kinds of business have periods of depression, which are apt to be followed by years of marked success. Supply and demand regulate prices without regard to legal law; the most that can be done by law, in sustaining prices, is to control the output or the markets. The sooner farmers and others come to recognize the great law of supply and demand in their business operations, the better it will be for them and the world.

Just at present the apple grower is on the under side, and is having the hard experience of an abundant crop and a profitable market for it. It is little wonder that many are feeling discouraged about their fruit business, and anxiously looking into the future to see if they can discern one little ray of hope? Optimistic always, I have faith to believe that the future of apple raising in this country, and especially in Maine, is bright with promise. The man who holds a steady hand, and who is ready to meet changed conditions with changed methods; the man who has a good reason for making changes (it isn't necessary to give those reasons to your neighbor, who has no business of his own to mind, and hence would like to manage yours,) and who studies and works for success, will find a fair measure of profit arising from his work.

There are many reasons why the price of apples is so low as it now is. I do not think that any man will claim that the apple crop of the world is larger than the people could use if they could have free access to it. If the means to buy were possessed by all who would like to buy, the apple crop of the world, large as it is, would find a market at a fair price.

We do not want to lose sight of the fact that we have passed through three years of depression in nearly all kinds of business. Men, women and children, who must work or starve, have been without employment for much of the time. Their meagre savings have been used up, their credit has been stretched to the utmost limit, and they have been forced to practice the most rigid economy in all lines of living.

It has recently been stated by one in a good position to know, that there are fifty thousand men, women and children idle in the cities of New York and Brooklyn alone. When we reflect that much the same condition is found all over the country and the world, it is very easy to understand that the supply of fruit is greater than the demand because of

[CONTINUED ON FIFTH PAGE.]

Choice Miscellany.
EVENTS OF 1896.

Varied Annals of the
Old Year.

A PAGE OF HISTORY.

Have Caused by Fire, Flood and
Storm—Commercial Failures—Per-
sonal, Political and Miscellaneous
Happenings—A Classified Summary
FIRE LOSSES.

JANUARY.
1. \$250,000 fire at West Palm Beach, Fla.
2. Franklin County Children's home, at Co-
lumbus, O.; loss, \$125,000.
3. 11 buildings burned at Creston, Ia.; loss,
\$150,000.
4. Central hotel and street block burned at
Albany, Pa.
5. A \$250,000 fire in St. Louis.
6. Crescent City Rice mills burned in New Or-
leans; loss, \$1,000,000.
7. 12 large apartment houses burned in Chi-
cago; loss, \$800,000.

FEBRUARY.
1. West Virginia State Normal school at West
Liberty burned.
2. Fire at Greenville, N. C.; loss, \$150,000.
3. Buckeye Glass works burned at Martin's
Lake, Ohio; loss, \$100,000.
4. A \$500,000 blaze at Birmingham, N. Y.
5. 15 business places burned at Florence, S.
C.; loss, \$100,000.

MARCH.
1. The village of Coleville, Mono county, Cal.,
wiped out by fire.
2. 15 buildings burned at Danbury, Conn.;
loss, \$150,000.
3. In Providence the Masonic building was
burned; loss, \$50,000.
4. Plant of the Pennsylvania Salt works at
Natrona, Pa., burned; loss, \$1,000,000.
5. 10 houses burned at Colon, Colombia.
6. Pleasure Ridge distillery, near Louisville,
burned; loss, \$25,000.

APRIL.
1. A \$300,000 fire in Waterville, Conn.
2. Weston, W. Va., suffered by fire to the ex-
tent of nearly \$500,000.

MAY.
1. Fire destroyed docks, warehouses and stores
valued at \$400,000 at Brunswick, Ga.
2. \$125,000 fire at Savannah, Ga.
3. \$175,000 fire at Savannah, Ga.
4. Dauntless Bicycle Co. burned out at Toledo;
loss, \$18,000.
5. 10 destroyed business blocks valued at
\$200,000 at Cripple Creek, Colo.
6. Meta block and other properties burned at
Quincy, Ill.; loss, \$300,000.

JUNE.
1. Residence of Senator Hale, at Ellsworth,
Me., burned; loss, \$70,000.
2. A \$300,000 fire at Newmarket, N. H.
3. Fire destroyed lumber and ore docks at
Laurel, Mich., causing a loss of \$500,000.
4. At Ashland, N. Y., were destroyed 30,000
feet of lumber, valued at nearly \$200,000.
5. A \$150,000 fire at Painted Post, N. Y.
6. 15 buildings burned at Elm Island, Ill.;
loss, nearly \$300,000.
7. 2 firemen killed and 4 missing at a fire in
Washington; loss, \$150,000.
8. A \$100,000 fire at Dallas.
9. A \$100,000 fire at Fort Worth.

JULY.
1. Fire in the New York Horse Exchange; 100
horses burned; loss, \$300,000.
2. San Luis Obispo, Cal., suffered to the ex-
tent of \$250,000 by fire.
3. Business block burned in Nashville; loss,
\$50,000.
4. Car barns of the Chicago City railway burned;
loss, \$250,000.
5. Park theater and Barrett House burned at
Henderson, Ky.; loss, \$250,000.
6. 10 buildings burned at New York; loss,
\$100,000.
7. 10 buildings burned at New York; loss,
\$100,000.
8. 10 buildings burned at New York; loss,
\$100,000.

AUGUST.
1. Explosion and fire at Swift & Co's packing
plant, Kansas City; loss, \$100,000; several
persons injured.
2. The Manhattan House, Shelter Island, N. Y.,
destroyed by fire; loss, \$200,000.
3. Chemical laboratory building of the Univer-
sity of Illinois, at Champaign, burned;
loss, \$100,000.
4. The town of Ontonagon, Mich., destroyed
by fire; loss, several millions of dollars;
the plant of the Diamond Match company,
valued at \$1,000,000, among the properties
burned.
5. Iowa State Institution for the Feeble Mind,
Lodi, struck by lightning and burned; loss,
\$150,000.

SEPTEMBER.
1. 10 buildings burned at Winston, N. C.;
loss, \$50,000.
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loss, \$50,000.

WRECKS AND EXPLOSIONS.
Record of Disasters on the Rail, in Mines
and in Crowded Cities.

1. 50 deaths in a coal mine disaster near Car-
diffe, Wales.
2. Bridge over the Pequabuck river, near
Hartford, was washed away; 80 workmen
drowned.
3. About 30 working girls killed at a factory
fire in Troy, N. Y.
4. Over 60 miners killed by an explosion at
Newcastle, Colo.
5. 35 deaths in a fire at a masked ball at San-
tarem, Portugal.
6. Hundreds of houses wrecked at Johannes-
burg, South Africa, by dynamite explosion;
over 100 deaths.
7. Deaths at the burning of a mansion in
Baltimore's fashionable district.

JANUARY.
1. The Larkin & Sons powder works, at Rip-
ton, N. Y., wrecked by the explosion of
30,000 pounds of powder; 5 employees killed;
30 miners killed by an explosion in the Ber-
wind White mine at Dubois, Pa.

APRIL.
1. 8 killed and several injured by a boiler ex-
plosion at Greenville, Miss.
2. Deaths in a tenement house fire in Brook-
lyn.

MAY.
1. Collapse of a 5 story lodging house in Cin-
cinnati; many lives lost.
2. Electric car crashed through a bridge at
Victoria, B. C.; 60 people drowned.
3. People drowned by the capsizing of a ferry-
boat at Cairo, Ill.

THE YEAR'S MISCELLANY.

A Record of Notable Events at Home
and Abroad.

JANUARY.
1. Prof. Loeb, teacher of mental culture, died
at San Francisco.
2. Lady Frances Wille, mother of Oscar
Wilde, died in London.
3. Isaac Murphy, celebrated jockey, died at
Lexington, Ky.

MARCH.
1. Riotous demonstrations in Spain against
the United States.
2. John S. Hoey, famous shot, died at Long
Island.
3. George Richmond, portrait artist, died.
4. William G. Judge, president of the Theo-
logical Seminary of America, died in New
York.

APRIL.
1. The Chinese Anglo-German loan of \$10,000,
000 closed in London.
2. Count von Kette mortally wounded Baron
von Schroder in a pistol duel in Berlin.
3. 5 leaders of the national reform committee,
including the American, John Hay Ham-
mond, sentenced to death for high treason at
Pretoria.

MAY.
1. The Shah of Persia assassinated.
2. Kate Stoker Weston, widow of John Stoker,
the theatrical manager, died in Bos-
ton.

JUNE.
1. F. K. Hain, general manager of the Man-
hattan Elevated railway, killed at Clifton,
N. J.
2. Death sentence upon the Transvaal reform
leaders committed.
3. 1000 men, including Chief Seattle of
Washington and a heroine of the plains, died
in Seattle.

JULY.
1. Sylvester H. Roper, inventor of a steam
bicycle, died while riding his first machine
in Cambridge, Mass.
2. Austin Corbin, the railway magnate, killed in
a runaway at New York; loss, \$100,000.
3. Frank Mayo, the actor, died on board a
train in Nebraska; aged 57.
4. Tso-Hsi, mother of the emperor of China,
died in Peking.

AUGUST.
1. 10th anniversary of the accession of Queen
Victoria observed in England.
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JUNE.
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KENNEBEC COUNTY NEWS.

A new hall has been placed on Wilson Hill, Hallowell, the old one being deemed unsafe. The new roof has been tinned.

The Friends in Winthrop village are arranging a place for worship in the Webb building on Main street, formerly occupied by C. W. Dillingham.

William Martin, an employe at Capt. Walker's box factory in Gardiner, lost a portion of two fingers of his left hand by a buzz saw.

E. H. Cook of North Vassalboro, who recently shipped a carload of apples to England, received returns from 50 barrels, showing a net loss of 22 cents.

David Chase, a passenger on the Grand Trunk, was run over at Gorham, N. H., Thursday night, and had a leg terribly crushed. He was taken to the hospital. His parents live in Gardiner.

Harold, the 9-years-old son of F. B. Wood of Hallowell, met with a serious and exceedingly painful accident while skating. He slipped upon the ice and was thrown, very severe sprains to the ankle and leg.

The outlook for ice on the Kennebec is one of the best known for years, and if the cold weather continues for a few days more the companies on the Kennebec will be harvesting. The ice is now from eight to ten inches thick, and it is probable a million tons will be harvested. The average quantity yearly is about eight hundred thousand tons.

Rev. A. T. Ringold, pastor of the First Baptist church in Gardiner, and Miss Harriet E. Robbins of Belfast, were married at home Friday (Christmas day) at the home of the bride's parents by Rev. A. T. Ringold. After a short wedding tour Mr. and Mrs. Ringold will return to Gardiner and reside at the parsonage.

Mrs. Betsey F. Maddocks of Waterville lately received from a relative in Vassalboro a souvenir cup made in Germany for George H. Cates of East Vassalboro. It has a representation of the great mill at that place owned by Mr. Cates. The foundation of the mill was built 65 years ago by Mrs. Maddocks' father, the late Jabez Dow, and is in perfect condition today.

Christmas was duly observed at the Southern Home. There was a big Christmas dinner. In the evening the band, as a grand orchestra, gave the customary nightly concert, with particularly fine programme appropriate to the morning of the day. The general feeling of the camp is about as usual, with entire freedom from epidemic diseases. A very considerable number of the men are absent on furlough to enjoy Christmas with their people.

Archibald Campbell, Superintendent of the Hallowell division of the Kennebec Light & Heat Co., was nearly asphyxiated, Tuesday afternoon, by gas from a lamp in the engine room in a pipe in the Wilson hall building. He entered a small room for the purpose of fixing a break, and was overcome by the gas. He was taken to the hospital, but died before he could be revived.

Mr. Campbell was prostrated and lying upon the floor. They took him out of the place and, calling a physician, returned him to consciousness, but it was an exceedingly long call.

L. B. Waldron, Esq., of Dexter received a letter from his brother, the late E. A. Waldron, Esq., of Waterville, on the morning of Christmas. The letter was a surprise. The concluding sentence of the letter was: "We are all well." The funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon, Rev. Dr. Spencer and Dr. Butler officiating. The services were also held. The music was furnished by a male quartet under the leadership of W. C. Philbrook, Esq. A large attendance of friends and relatives were present. The residents members of the Kennebec branch attended in a body, accompanied by several lawyers from Augusta and Gardiner.

The body of Hugh Rider, a member of the National Home, was found Wednesday, by a hunter in a swamp near a small lake a few miles away. The unfortunate man had been missing some three months. The body was found in the swamp in search of curious formations of roots for novelties in canes, and had sunk in the bog to his knees. Being troubled with heart disease, his efforts to extricate himself from the swamp resulted in his death. The body was found in a position of extreme agony. The cause of his death was heart failure. He was a man of excellent character, and had served in the light artillery of his State throughout the war. His age was about 65 years.

L. O. Cobb, Postmaster at Winthrop, and who has been in the hardware business for many years, has made an assignment. It is said that total indebtedness of the business is about \$10,000, and his total liabilities may reach \$15,000; assets, \$2,000. The worst feature of the affair is the fact that Mr. Cobb borrowed considerable money of women, who took his personal note for security.

Our Redfield correspondent says: The dramatic club played "Imogene" to a large audience Dec. 15th. Good success. Judge E. O. Bean gave a party to the Masonic lodge the same evening, which was very much enjoyed by those who were present. The Methodist Society gave an opera at their chapel, the 24th, in connection with a Christmas tree. The opera was under the care of Miss Mary Foss, and showed much talent. The evening of the 25th, the I. O. G. T. had a Christmas tree and a social entertainment. The Universalists had no preaching last Sunday, on account of the illness of their minister. Maurice Crosby was with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Davis for a short visit. He came from Michigan.

Superior Court at Augusta.

Samuel Currier, executor, vs. Alger V. Currier of Hallowell, administrator. To recover the sum of \$183 for hay, wood, butter and potatoes. Verdict for defendant.

Inhabitants of West Gardiner vs. Inhabitants of Whitefield; action to recover \$47.85 for pauper supplies furnished to one Charles F. Jones and family, whose pauper settlement is alleged to be in the defendant town. It is claimed that if Jones has no settlement in Whitefield then he has it in Glenburn, where he was born and lived twenty-five years of age. Verdict for plaintiff for \$48.

The condemned cattle of Alonzo Libby's herd of Jerseys and Ayrshires, at Westbrook, will not be slaughtered, Thursday, as had been announced. Mr. Libby has arranged to have the infected cattle at Mr. Libby's herd, but to kill between 40 and 50 cattle out of a single herd, and thoroughbred at that, was quite an undertaking, especially in view of the deficit in our appropriation, and we decided to wait till we could find out where the money was coming from to pay for them. The cattle will not be killed on Mr. Libby's premises, but will be disposed of to a rendering company and reduced to fertilizer and soap grease.

A happy and prosperous new year to the fifty thousand readers of the Farmer.

The East Somerset Agricultural Society is to issue bonds to pay off some of their indebtedness.

Items of Maine News.

Dyer's Pond, Jefferson, is closed to ice fishing for three years.

The North Bridge at Lewiston is completed and open for travel.

Everything is moving on nicely at the Bath Iron Works, a large number of contracts being filled.

A number have gone recently, from Jefferson to the Massachusetts straw sheds.

Edward C. Hyde, president of the Maine National Bank, and one of Bath's respected citizens, died at 12 o'clock Saturday night.

Ezekiel Foss, a prominent citizen of Biddeford, died Friday morning, from cancer of the stomach. His age was 97 years. He was born in North Saco.

Capt. Enos Heald of Lovell, died, Sunday, at the age of 90 years. He was a well known cattle broker and real estate speculator.

C. W. Burdett has been appointed postmaster at Birch, vice Charles S. Keyes, and Mrs. T. Snell at Chase's Mills, vice John Chase.

M. L. Abbott, an honored citizen of Dexter, died Tuesday morning, aged 58 years. He had been connected with the Kennebec mill manufacturing for about forty years.

The two-year-old son of Joseph Leimieux, of Westbrook, died Tuesday forenoon, from the effects of a quantity of cold salts in a wash tub previous.

The child drank a few hours previous.

John W. Sturges, a resident of Houlton, went out to milk the cows at 5 o'clock the other night, a fine doe ran before her into the cow shed. Mr. Sturges called her son and the doe was secured.

The Auburn shoe business has more than held its own this year. The same may be said of the other industries, also. In the long list of manufacturing enterprises, the city has lost only one during the year: the Auburn Motor Company, which is about to move to Brunswick.

The schooner Robert Ingles Carter, Capt. Townsend, bound from New York to Portland, on Saturday went ashore on the Alden rock, near Cape Elizabeth. The crew were saved by the crew of the life-saving station. The vessel is a total wreck.

The safe of Murdoch & Freeman, bottlers of soda, Franklin street, Portland, was blown open, Wednesday night. The burglar got \$200 in cash, a Pennsylvania water bond for \$1000, and several promissory notes and checks. Probably they will not be able to realize on the bonds or notes or checks.

Company M, National Guards of Westbrook, was organized Tuesday evening, with Col. Kendall of the First Regiment and staff in attendance. These officers were elected: Captain, J. H. Starr; 1st Lieutenant, J. H. Starr; 2d Lieutenant, L. C. Holston. The company was named Cleaves Rifles, for Governor Cleaves.

Horace M. Barnes, a prominent citizen of Bristol, died at that city, Thursday. He was born at Bucksport, in 1823. He was extensively engaged in manufacturing in Fall River, Mass., and had a banking establishment in that city. He was formerly prominently identified with New York and Chicago business interests.

Charles P. Church of Bridgewater, one of the noted tanners of Maine, died of pneumonia, Thursday evening, at the Small House, Houlton, aged 47 years. In 1874, he became proprietor of the Bradford tannery. He carried on the business for several years. A few years ago he moved to Bridgewater, and there built a large tannery, which he operated up to the time of his death.

Wm. McFall, aged 26, was killed Monday night, by jumping from a horse at Bangor, shortly after his departure at eight o'clock. He lived on Dutton street and jumped off the train there on an up grade. He fell down an embankment, fractured his spine and died at the hospital shortly after being taken there. He leaves a widow. He was a driver for the American Express Co.

There has been an unusual amount of building operations at South Portland and Norway during the year. At South Portland an estimated cost of \$47,775. A part of these were additions to older structures. At Norway 38 new buildings have been constructed, some of them quite costly residences, at an estimated cost of \$74,650. An Odd Fellows block, an Episcopal church and 12 residences will be started as soon as the season will permit.

The American Banking and Trust Co., of Auburn, chartered in 1880, has closed its doors, and asked the court for the appointment of a receiver. The deposits are large but the officers say there are assets enough to pay depositors in full as soon as the assets can be turned into cash. Deposits and bills payable amount to \$24,408.19; assets on hand, and on deposit, real estate and mortgages, discounts and other personal property, \$130,743.05. The business of the institution was largely in Western mortgages.

The other night Horace Lewis, 20 years old, son of James Lewis of Westbrook, accidentally shot his mother in the leg, shattering the ankle and wounding her so seriously that physicians think it necessary to amputate the limb between the hip and knee. Lewis was loading his gun in the kitchen when he was snapping in the shell when the explosion occurred. It was nearly two weeks before physicians arrived from Wisconsin and the mother had so much blood that she was in a critical condition. She rallied after the operation and physicians think she may recover.

Mark M. Bacheider of East Sebago came to his death in a mysterious manner, Sunday. He was found in a position by the roadside, and subsequently died without being able to tell how he came by his fatal wounds. He was a man 55 years old, of large frame, a farmer, who was well known as a fisherman, hunter and guide. An investigation was held. It was found that on his way home, Bacheider had called at the house known as Kennon's, a sort of roadside tavern and resort for low characters. Here he had filled up with liquor, and fell from his sleigh, striking his head on a stone or on the frozen ground, inflicting wounds which caused his death.

Contractor James Mitchell of the Portland and Kennebec Railroad arrived at Portland Monday night, and makes a report regarding the condition of the railroad affairs. He says that he has returned from a conference with the owners, Moore & Schley of New York, and has their sanction to the plan of the railroad at the disposal of the road. Mr. Mitchell will put on large crews at the Glenville end of the line as soon as the season opens, and push the road on as rapidly as possible. There has been under consideration a plan to put the road through to Calais in one year, but Mr. Mitchell does not consider the plan advisable. He says that the present plans are to take that the present season. Several hundred men will be in the field to move earth in March or the latter part of April.

Almon F. Healy, 41 years old, and his wife Henrietta, 40, were arrested on Washington street, Boston, last week, charged with shoplifting in one of the big stores. About \$10 worth of goods, including some coats, gloves and lace,

Good Blood

Is essential to health. Every nook and corner of the system is reached by the blood, and on its quality the condition of every organ depends. Good blood means strong nerves, good digestion, robust health. Impure blood means scrofula, dyspepsia, rheumatism, catarrh or other diseases. The surest way to have good blood is to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. This medicine purifies, vitalizes, and enriches the blood, and sends the elements of health and strength to every nerve, organ and tissue. It creates a good appetite, gives refreshing sleep and cures that tired feeling. Remember,

Hood's Sarsaparilla

In the best - In fact the One True Blood Purifier.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Bile; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

Were found in their possession, so the police charge. The officers charge that Mrs. Heatley took the goods and passed them to her husband who put them in his pockets. Inspectors Knox and Douglass arrested them. They say that when arrested Mrs. Heatley, who had the books, threw them away and that Heatley pulled the gloves out of his pocket and attempted to get rid of them. Both were taken to headquarters and committed. They told the officers they came from Cape Elizabeth, Me., three weeks ago. Heatley said he was a brakeman on the Boston & Maine. He is now out of work.

PROBATE COURT - KENNEBEC COUNTY.

Fred P. Blaisdell of West Gardiner was appointed Administrator on the estate of William H. Babcock of West Gardiner. N. N. Knight of Winthrop was appointed Administrator on estate of Francis Knight, Jr., of Wayne. Ed L. Blake of Monmouth was appointed Administrator on estate of Emerson K. Blake of Monmouth. Abbie M. Hall of Vienna was appointed Administratrix on estate of Charles G. Hall of Vienna. Arthur L. Perry of Gardiner was appointed Administrator on estate of Mary L. Perry of Gardiner. Fanny C. Lovejoy of Waterville was appointed Administratrix on the estate of Ira H. Low of Waterville. Wm. B. Webber of Brookline, Mass., was appointed Administrator on estate of Harriet G. Webber of North Lakeville, Mass. Lilla A. Swift of Augusta was appointed Administratrix on the estate of Isaac H. Swift of Augusta. Jonathan S. Goodrich of Gardiner was appointed Administrator on estate of Joanna Goodrich of Gardiner.

Wills proved, approved and allowed: Of Elizabeth B. Woodbury of Augusta; John H. Woodbury of Augusta appointed Executor. Of Meribah Spear of Litchfield; no letters to issue. Of Lena L. Littlefield of Gardiner; W. D. Whitney of Gardiner appointed Administrator with will annexed.

Edward S. Crosby of Winslow was appointed Guardian of Libbitt Tuttle of Winslow, of unsound mind. William Murray of Waterville was appointed Guardian of Clyde Murray of Waterville. In the Court of Insolvency discharges were issued to T. W. Avery of Sidney, and Joseph Lacombe of Winslow. A discharge was denied Robert W. Cook of Bangor.

Treed by a Wolf.

Charles Foss of Webster was in Lewiston to buy some rifle cartridges when in the chase of an animal in his town. He was accompanied by his wife and two children. For some time the farmers over there have been worried by wolves, or some other creature, destroying sheep. At first it was believed to be dogs that were killing the sheep, but at a later date the people made up their minds that it was a robber of hen roosts that was in the town and that he came from another township. Still the robberies went on. During the last few months large numbers of sheep have been killed and at different times they have been found half eaten. Still it was believed to be dogs. The largest loss of sheep is reported by Mr. Ed. Andrews, who lost 45 sheep. Mr. Joseph Allen, who lost 45.

The other day, Mr. Charles Goss was out in the woods, sawing with a machine saw and working very busily, when he saw a strange looking animal coming up to him. It was as large as a large mastiff with lots of fur on the front part of its body, but not much on the back part. His body was like a lion's, and for this reason he thinks that it was a wolf.

After glancing at the animal for some time he made up his mind that it could glare more horribly than he, and he took to the nearest tree, where the creature followed him to the roots and remained there till he got tired of it and then went off. There'll be a grand hunt out there soon.

The woodmen are praying for snow. Things were never in better shape for a good snow-fall than at present. The ground was very wet when the cold weather came, and soon froze up solid. The lakes and swamps are well frozen. The out on Union river this year, it is said, will not be as large as last year.

Wilford C. Legault of Portland, aged 12, while playing with Frank McDonough, aged 6, Monday, struck him on the head with a stick, fracturing his skull. His condition is precarious. Legault was arrested and will be held, pending the outcome of McDonough's injuries.

While out hauling his lobster traps Thursday, at Vinalhaven, J. H. Ames' boat sunk from under him, leaving him with nothing but an oar. Fortunately, his son being near in his boat, saw his father and rescued him from his perilous position.

"Billy" McGee, while trying to secure a ride on a Grand Trunk train at Groton, N. H., fell between two cars and was badly injured. The result of his injuries is still in doubt.

GRANGE NEWS AND NOTES.

Cushman Grange, Riverside, banked over one hundred and twenty-five dollars as the result of their entertainment last week. The money is to be devoted to the purchase of new furniture and fittings for the hall. This will make this Grange hall one of the attractive rooms of the State. We congratulate the members on the result following their earnest labors.

One drawback to the highest success of the order is the petty jealousy of those so narrow minded that they would bar every progressive man from the order, even though an agriculturist. Until this small minority is set in the background and every agent welcomed which would promote prosperity and intelligence, the Grange will suffer. The organization is primarily for the promotion of agriculture, but that can only come through broader education and the widening influence of true sociability. The scientist who delves and the student who gleams in the fields of literature are agricultural workers just as truly as he who takes the soil in the laboratory and goes out to apply in practice. There can be no divorce of these interests without loss at the foundation. Each depends on the other. Each contributes to the other. The declaration of purposes recognizes this mutual dependence, and only narrow, bigoted individuals deny. The quantity of patrons is assured, the question of quality is not to be overlooked, and as years pass the standard must continually be lifted higher and higher. This can come alone through greater unity in thought and purpose, greater harmony in labor, whether in the field, or at the desk. The more of kinship there can be the more rapid the advance in the essentials of a true patron of husbandry.

Waldo County Grange met Dec. 22, with Northern Light Grange, Waterville. The attendance was good. The following Granges were represented: Northern Light and Sunrise, Winterport; Grinning Light, Monroe; Star of Progress, Jackson; Harvest Moon and Hillside, Thordike; Silver Harvest and Ritchie, Waldo; South Branch, Prospect; Granite, North Seaport. The meeting was presided over by Joseph Ellis of Waldo. A class of new members was initiated. Remarks for good of the Grange were made by the Worthy Master. Noon recess was then taken. After recess the choir gave some music. The question, "Resolved, that no man should be taxed double taxation," was opened by Dyer and S. C. Thompson, and an animated discussion followed in which nearly all took part. Northern Light Grange furnished the following programme: Music by the choir; recitations by Daisy Libby and Ada Dyer; songs by S. C. Thompson, Frank Busby and Mel Clark. The next meeting will be with Granite Grange, North Seaport. The address of welcome is assigned to A. Stinson, and the response to W. H. Ginn. The question for discussion is, "Resolved, that all in all it is a wretched business, and the losses will be very heavy. There is no doubt but what all the markets in Europe will improve in consequence of shipments from this side having fallen off enormously, so that with the turn of the year there is every prospect that prices will be much higher; but shipments must be moderate or we will see a repetition of this horrible war."

As to prices, it is most difficult to give them in order to be any sort of good to shippers. There have been occasional sales of extra fancy fruit at really good prices, but these are misleading to quote. The great bulk of the sales have been from 25c. to \$1.25 per bbl., giving nets here in Boston from 40c. down to nothing, and in some cases with reclamations for shippers to face. The stock of apples in this country is still enormous, and no doubt a great many will have to go abroad for realization, but great care should be used from now out, and unless apples are very fine and hard it will be very risky to ship in barrels. In his own mind, the writer is inclined to think that some very choice red fruit, carefully selected and packed in the half-barrel case and wrapped in paper, is likely to do well. My latest returns for cases are far better than for barrels, as there is not that danger of slack and wasteful fruit. All those who can sell their fruit at home at 75c. to \$1.00 per bbl., I should advise to do so in preference to shipping. However, it is like all such cases of demoralization, probably very few will attempt shipping after this, and those who do are likely to reach good markets and be rewarded for their boldness.

The total shipments from Boston for the week ending to-day are only 5027 packages to all ports, and a thousand of these are cases. There were 4619 bbls. sent to Liverpool, and 303 bbls. and 1105 cases to London. The total shipments from Portland for the week foot up 14,340. GEO. A. COCHRANE, Exporter. Boston, Dec. 26.

Brunswick Locals.

A highway robbery occurred near the corner of Main and Mill streets at 1 A. M., Wednesday. Mr. Kunkle, an overseer in the cotton mill, was held up with a pistol pointed at his head, and robbed of his watch and \$15.

Our river is affording excellent skating, and is improved by old and young of both sexes.

Frank M. Stetson, clothing dealer, has assigned to Charles L. Townsend, for the benefit of his creditors.

John Bradbury, soldier in the late civil war, died at the poor house, Tuesday.

The brick work of the machine shop on Standard street is nearly completed. The dimensions are 40x100 feet, and it will be occupied as a machine manufacturing, foundry and fuel factory.

A Boston box factory company has purchased the best timber lot in this town, of the estate of the late A. P. Woods, containing upward of 100 acres. The timber will be sawed into boards in a new steam saw mill on the lot.

Calendars and Coupons.

So many beautiful calendars and entertaining novelties have been issued by the proprietors of Hood's Sarsaparilla, that we are hardly surprised to receive this season not only one of the very prettiest designs in calendars, but with it coupons which entitle the recipient to attractive novelties. Every one who gets a Hood's Sarsaparilla calendar for 1897 secures something that will prove interesting and valuable, as well as a beautiful specimen of the lithographer's art. The calendar is accompanied this season by an amusing little book on "The Weather." Ask your druggist for Hood's Coupon Calendar, or send 6 cents in stamps for one to C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

ed the following officers for the ensuing year:

Master—Nelson Gordon.
Overseer—Ned Dyer.
Lecturer—J. G. Hamlin.
Steward—N. A. Littlefield.
Assistant Steward—B. A. Gross.
Chaplain—D. B. Dolloff.
Treasurer—F. L. Hogan.
Secretary—J. J. Macfarlane.
Gate Keeper—Bert Webb.
Ceres—Mrs. Emma S. Gordon.
Pomona—Mrs. A. M. Dolloff.
Flora—Mrs. Emma Hamlin.
Lady Asst Steward—Mrs. Abbie Ham.
—Officers for 1897 of Pleasant River Grange, No. 169, Milo:
Master—G. R. Hoxie.
Overseer—L. Herrick.
Lecturer—Mrs. L. J. Hobbs.
Steward—L. E. Sherburne.
Assistant Steward—J. H. Rhoda.
Chaplain—Mrs. S. T. Severance.
Treasurer—B. F. Menter.
Secretary—L. F. Hobbs.
Gate Keeper—E. E. Severance.
Pomona—Mrs. S. A. Stanchfield.
Flora—Mrs. E. J. Snow.
Ceres—Mrs. S. J. Macfarlane.
Lady Asst Steward—Mrs. R. M. Rhoda.
Chorister—Mrs. E. L. Monroe.

At the annual meeting of Leeds Grange the following officers were chosen:

Master—E. E. Addison.
Overseer—P. H. Dean.
Lecturer—F. H. Herrick.
Steward—M. F. Marchant.
Assistant Steward—W. H. Bishop.
Chaplain—Seth Howard.
Treasurer—B. C. Thomas.
Secretary—Abbie E. Deane.
Gate Keeper—Henry George.
Ceres—Mrs. B. C. Thomas.
Pomona—Mrs. F. H. Herrick.
Flora—Mrs. E. A. Russell.
Lady Assistant—Mertie Grant.
Chorister—L. C. Thomas.
Organist—Mrs. M. C. Howe.
Librarian—Emma McCluskey.
Asst Librarian—May Parcher.

The following officers were elected at Topsham Grange, No. 37, Saturday evening:

Master—F. A. Rackley.
Overseer—E. W. Mallett.
Lecturer—J. F. Moody.
Assistant Steward—F. Williams.
Lecturer—C. P. Edcomb.
Chaplain—Wm. Dolloff.
Treasurer—A. E. Telford.
Secretary—Joseph White.
Lady Assistant—Emma Williams.
Ceres—Mrs. F. A. Rackley.
Pomona—Mrs. E. W. Mallett.
Flora—Mrs. Chas. Rackley.

Foreign Apple Market.

My cable advices from all the foreign markets have again been deplorable, but they are the same as all are receiving. It is simply a case of demoralization from immense accumulations. We have shipped altogether too much and in too short a time. The crop of Valencia oranges is as phenomenal this year as our apple crop was, and arrivals in England have simply been enormous. Take it all in all it is a wretched business, and the losses will be very heavy. There is no doubt but what all the markets in Europe will improve in consequence of shipments from this side having fallen off enormously, so that with the turn of the year there is every prospect that prices will be much higher; but shipments must be moderate or we will see a repetition of this horrible war."

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Communications.

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

mand is too small. There is an under consumption, due to lack of work which gives the means with which to buy.

Whatever has led to this condition, one thing is sure, it cannot always last. Whether it be political abuse or economic sin outside the field of politics, is a matter hardly suitable for discussion through the columns of an agricultural paper. Of one thing we may be sure, the intelligence and moral principle of the civilized peoples of the world will find both the disease and its cure. Therefore, while giving all due diligence to the public questions, (and all men should be interested in public matters) let us not forget our private needs.

The highest tide must recede; the longest lane must turn; the bad times are as sure to be followed by better as the day is to follow the night. There have been years in the past when good apples failed to sell at profitable prices, but the men who have kept on have done well at their business. Steady work must always count for something in apple raising as well as other things. The right fruit, well grown and well marketed, will find the future waiting for it. If we can meet the conditions we shall succeed.

This year the cider barrel is very much in evidence on many farms; much fruit has been ground up into cider for domestic uses. My brother, let it work itself into vinegar as the cider is a greater curse than no market for our fruit.

Reported for the Maine Farmer.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Given at the meeting of Acrostook County Pomona Grange with Caribou Grange, Dec. 12, by Mrs. Elizabeth Stubbins.

Brothers and Sisters of Pomona Grange: My mind doth vastly try to range Some words of welcome to impart. That may please the ear and reach the heart.

Brothers and Sisters, do I say That why a welcome here to-day? Are we not pledged as a loyal band, Ever to extend a welcoming hand?

Are we not all, o'er hill and vale? As a united body shall we fail? Dare we our obligation break? And thus our character put at stake?

Are not our hearts on the same intent? Do we not all on progress bent? Do we not feel the genial touch Of a granger's hand, or word, or much?

If we cannot all some greatness do To help the temperance movement through, To help in legislature's hall, Where good men seem to be enthralled—

We may be anxious every day, To impart within some heart a ray Of sunshine, though it may but glimmer, And to our minds seem to be dimmer

Than e'er the faintest ray of light That shines in firmament at night, The minister of goodness, that is light, That helps to form his grandeur bright—

And the tiniest twinkling little star, That back and out of sight so far, It seems so useless, void of strength, Compared with that of meteor length.

'Twas placed there by our Ruler's hand, We too, are a part of God's great plan, Thus we would do the good we may, While His power o'er life's rugged way.

Then hail, my Brothers and Sisters, here We welcome you, and with friendly cheer Ask your protection, though far or near, And in all good work, to persevere—

By kindly words or a welcoming song, We may help our union's progress on, To cost but little, the Grange banner, 'Tis brotherly love, and friendship's bands.

Now let us try with one resolve

The mystic problem hard to solve, As how to best, with one accord, Market our produce with reward?

PUNY CHILDREN

Half the children die before the age of five years; the result in many cases of being left to "outgrow" a puny, emaciated, bloodless condition.

ANGIER'S PETROLEUM EMULSION

feeds the starved tissues, restores plump and vigorous bodily conditions and helps the stomach and bowels to digest other food. Unlike Cod Liver Oil it is perfectly agreeable to take. Invaluable in cases of scrofula, wasting diseases and impoverished blood.

Druggists, 50c. and \$1.00. Pamphlet Mailed Free. ANGIER CHEMICAL CO., BOSTON, MASS.

HOME COMFORT

THREE GOLD AND ONE SILVER MEDAL
World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition, New Orleans 1884 and 1885.

HIGHEST AWARDS

Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, 1887.

DIPLOMA

Alabama State Agr'l Society at Montgomery, 1888.

AWARD

Chattanooga Valley Expo., Columbus, Ga., 1888.

HIGHEST AWARDS

St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Ass'n., 1893.

SIX HIGHEST AWARDS

World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893.

HIGHEST AWARDS

Western Fair Association, London, Eng., 1893.

SIX GOLD MEDALS

Midwinter Fair, San Francisco, Cal., 1894.

SILVER MEDAL

Toronto Exposition, Toronto, Canada, 1895.

HONORS WERE RECEIVED BY

WROUGHT IRON RANGE CO.,
Washington Avenue, 10th to 20th Streets,
and 7th and 8th Streets, ST. LOUIS, MO., U.S.A.
FOUNDED 1864. PAID UP CAPITAL, \$100,000.

Majestic Steel and Malleable Iron Family & Hotel Ranges

250,000 people in the United States now enjoying food cooked in the Majestic, affirm that half has not yet been said in its praise.

\$48.00 buys a full sized range, with hot closet and end tank holding 18 gallons.

WILL C.

